

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 07875 041909Z

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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: COREPER DISCUSSIONS ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE,
SEPTEMBER 4

REF: PREEG/JOHNSON TELECON SEPTEMBER 4

1. A SOURCE IN THE BRITISH PERMANENT DELEGATION HAS GIVEN US A RUN-DOWN ON THE DISCUSSION AT THE SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING OF THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (COREPER) RELATED TO THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS OF THE FRENCH AIDE MEMOIRE WERE NOT DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY. REGARDING THE FOURTH COMMISSION, THE UK SAID THAT THEY WERE "DUBIOUS" REGARDING THE NEED FOR SUCH A COMMISSION BUT REALIZED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO BOW TO SAUDI INSISTENCE. THE BRITISH, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE ITALIANS AND TO A LESSER EXTENT BY THE BELGIANS, URGED THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FOURTH COMMISSION BE DRAFTED SO AS TO RESTRICT ITS EFFORTS TO THOSE FINANCIAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE OTHER THREE COMMISSIONS. (IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION, OUR SOURCE SAID

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 07875 041909Z

THAT THE FRENCH MADE NO MENTION OF ADDING THE WORDS "AND

MONETARY" TO THE PORTION OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE DETAILING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FOURTH COMMISSION.)

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE FRENCH SAID LITTLE DURING THE COREPER MEETING. THEY DID, HOWEVER, SAY THE CONSULTATIONS WERE STILL GOING ON WITH REGARD TO VARIOUS POINTS OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE, BUT THEY DID NOT ELABORATE AS TO WHAT CHANGES THEY WERE CONSIDERING IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT.

3. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT THE FRENCH PREPARE FOR THE NEXT COREPER MEETING (SEPTEMBER 11) A PAPER DETAILING THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PREPCON PARTICIPANTS AND SETTING FORTH THEIR THOUGHTS ON THE PROBLEMS RAISED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR SOUNDINGS. THIS PAPER IS TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER ISSUE AT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS SEPTEMBER 15-16. (THE FRENCH DID, HOWEVER, STATE, AS THEY HAD AT THE AUGUST 22 COREPER MEETING THAT THIS WAS NOT A COMMUNITY DRAFTING EXERCISE, AND THAT THE AIDE MEMOIRE WOULD REMAIN A FRENCH DOCUMENT.) GREENWALD

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